

**PROJECT-HORIZON: RESEARCH PRESENTED ON SEAFARER FATIGUE**



Michael Barnett, himself a former seafarer. In the background, Theresa Crossley, head of EMSA's Implementation Department.

On 16 December, Professor Mike Barnett, head of Maritime Research at Warsash Maritime Academy in the UK, made a presentation to EMSA staff on the Horizon Project – a study of the effects of fatigue on the cognitive performance and decision-making of ships' watch keeping officers. This €3 million research project was funded by the EU FP7 research programme and is the result of collaboration between academics from Sweden and the UK, in partnership with representatives from all sides of the maritime industry. Professor Barnett explained that *Horizon* set out to collect empirical data on fatigue levels and the effects on cognitive performance, with the aim of developing a fatigue management toolkit for the maritime industry. He described how 90 seafarers took part in the research, which was conducted using bridge and engine room simulators to re-create realistic voyage conditions. Among the initial findings: working a '6 hours on, 6 hours off' shift pattern had a greater effect on cognitive performance than working a '4 on, 8 off' pattern; that the onset of tiredness on a '6on, 6 off' system was over a much shorter time-frame than predicted; and that differences exist between the levels of sleepiness (measured by reaction time) recorded for engineer and deck watch keepers, operating under the same conditions. The data gathered was robust enough to provide input to marine validated fatigue prediction models for use by the maritime. The team is hoping to develop this further in future stages of the project.

**ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: EMSA'S FIRST STCW INSPECTION IN INDIA**

It is not every day that EMSA encounters an elephant in the course of its activities. Four EMSA inspectors of maritime training institutions conducted the first EMSA inspection of maritime training schools in India between 14 and 28 November 2011. The inspection included visits to administration offices and to maritime education and training institutions in Mumbai and Chennai. India is a major supplier of seafarers to the global fleet. The country's shipping minister seeks to increase India's share in seafarer supply from the current 6-7% to 9% by 2015. EMSA's *STCW inspections* are conducted on behalf of the European Commission, and serve to audit maritime education systems in third countries.



EMSA inspectors receive an elephant welcome: an expression of good fortune.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILLEM DE RUITER BIDS FAREWELL TO EMSA**



Sextant-genarian: retiring Director Willem de Ruiter receives his retirement gift from all EMSA staff.

On 30 November, former Executive Director Willem de Ruiter drew an end to his long career as 'EMSA Captain' and EU civil servant. The event was celebrated with EMSA colleagues over relaxed drinks. A few words were offered by interim Executive Director Leendert Bal, together with colleague James Wood, who worked for several years as Mr de Ruiter's Assistant. A touching comment from Mr de Ruiter was that 'EMSA is its people and nothing else'.

**SHARING ACCIDENT DATA: EMCIP WORKSHOPS**

Two workshops on EMCIP Notification took place at EMSA premises on 17-18 and 24-25 November 2011. 20 participants from the Member States' investigative bodies attended the meetings. The workshops were primarily aimed at users not yet familiar with the use of the marine casualty database of the *European Casualty Information Platform* (EMCIP). Detailed and practical information on the functions of the system was provided during the events, covering everything from how to populate the database with notifications, to extracting data.

**EUROPOL DIRECTOR VISITS EMSA**

The Director of *Europol*, Rob Wainwright, while on a wider visit to Lisbon, came to EMSA on 9-10 January, where he met Leendert Bal, acting Executive Director of EMSA in his capacity of Head of Department C, *Operations*. The purpose of the visit was to discuss how the two Agencies could work together and establish synergies and save costs through cooperation. The areas of interest were the vessel monitoring and tracking systems managed by EMSA. The outcome of the meeting was positive, and will pave the way for further work on the practical and legal aspects of operational cooperation.



EMSA and Europol both have an interest in maritime surveillance.

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